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POL 334: Politics of Immigration
Dela Kpo
Assignment 1



Representative Frank Pallone

New Jersey District 6 (NJ – 06)

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POL 334: Politics of Immigration

Representative: Frank Pallone
District: 6th District of New Jersey (NJ –06)
Party: Democratic Party

NJ-06: 2008–2018 Election Results

Election Year	Democrat	Republican	Other	Winner
2018	63.6%	36.4%	0%	Frank Pallone
2016	63.7%	34.9%	1.4%	Frank Pallone
2014	59.9%	38.9%	1.1%	Frank Pallone
2012	63.3%	35.2%	1.5%	Frank Pallone
2010	54.7%	43.7%	1.6%	Frank Pallone
2008	66.9%	31.6%	1.4%	Frank Pallone



Frank Pallone has been the Congressional representative for the 6th District of New Jersey (NJ-06) since 1988.

The district covers Middlesex and Monmouth Counties, including important townships such as Edison, New Brunswick, and Ashbury Park, and has traditionally been a Democratic stronghold.

Source: Ballotpedia

NJ-06: 2008 -2018 Election Results

Representative Frank Pallone has continuously represented the 6th District of New Jersey (NJ-06) since 1988 and has won most of his elections by a significant margin. The 6th District of New Jersey covers Middlesex and Monmouth Counties and, importantly, townships such as Edison, New Brunswick, Ashbury Park, Long Branch, and Perth Amboy, The district is largely suburban and is home to important educational institutions such as Rutgers University, companies such as Novo Nordisk and Wakefern Food Corporation, and major medical centers such as Robert Wood Johnson. Moreover, the district is diverse in terms of race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic background.


Source:

https://ballotpedia.org/Frank_Pallone

Political Theory Behind Immigration Policy Dynamics

- (1) **Wong (2017)** maintains that partisanship is the most consistent determinant of support or opposition by representatives to immigration policy
- (2) **Casellas and Leal (2013)** found that length of tenure of a representative is a determinant of immigration policy support with shorter tenure associated with lower support
- (3) **Casellas and Leal (2013)** discovered that a high poverty rate is negatively associated with representative support reform legislation and positively associated with enforcement measures
- (4) **Milner and Tingely (2011)** found that districts with a greater foreign-born percentage are also more likely to support pro-immigration legislation
- (5) **Casellas and Leal (2013)** unearthed that the larger the Latino population, the more likely a representative will support comprehensive immigration reform such as the DREAM Act

Source: See supplement



Political Theory Behind Immigration Policy Dynamics

A number of scholars have theorized the political foundations of immigration policy dynamics in the United States congress. Wong and others found that partisanship was the most consistent determinant of support or opposition for immigration policy. Casellas and Leal discovered that the length of tenure of the representative is a determinant of immigration policy support where shorter tenure is correlated with lower support. On the district level, Casellas and Leal also showed that a high poverty rate is negatively associated with reform legislation and positively correlated with enforcement measures. In terms of demographics, scholars showed that greater foreign-born percentage as well as greater Latino percentage were both associated with pro-immigration legislation.

Sources:

Wong (2017):

<http://www.oxfordscholarship.com/view/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780190235307.001.0001/acprof-9780190235307>

Casellas and Leal (2013):

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/21565503.2012.758588>

Milner and Tingely (2011):

https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2182086

Predictions on Immigration Reform

- (1) Since Representative Pallone is a Democrat, it is expected that he supports pro-immigration legislation
- (2) Given that Representative Pallone has been representing the NJ-06 since 1988 and is currently Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, it is predicted that he strong supporter of pro-immigration legislation
- (3) The poverty rate for NJ-06 in 10.7% while the state statistic is 10.0%. As a result, it is not expected that poverty is associated with Representative Pallone's support or opposition for immigration policy
- (4) Because the foreign-born percentage of 29.6% for NJ-06 is higher than the state statistic if 22.1%, it is predicted that Representative Pallone supports pro-immigration policy
- (5) Since Latino percentage of 22.4% for NJ-06 is higher than the state statistic of 20.4%, it is expected that Representative Pallone is a supporter of comprehensive immigration reform

Conclusion: Representative Frank Pallone support pro-immigration policy

Source: See supplement

Predictions on Immigration Reform

Given the heterogeneity of the 6th District of New Jersey, it is expected that the political theories have relevance to Representative Pallone's immigration policy support. As a staunch Democrat, we expect Representative Pallone to support pro-immigration legislation in most, if not all, forms. Furthermore, since he has been a member of the House of Representatives since 1988 and is a ranking member, we also expect him to be an ardent supporter of his position on immigration because he is not liable to reelection dynamics like newer members. At the district level, the poverty rate of NJ-06 is comparable to that of the state and so we expect poverty to be unrelated to his support or opposition to immigration policy. The percentage of foreign-born is over 7% higher for NJ-06 and, as a result, we expect this to play into his support for pro-immigration policy. Since the Latino percentage is 2% higher for NJ-06 as compared to the state, we also predict that he will support comprehensive immigration reform. All of the predictions support that Representative Pallone will be a supporter of comprehensive immigration reform.

Sources:

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/nj>

<https://www.census.gov/mycd/?st=34&cd=06>

Actual Immigration Policy Outlook

21 (4.65% of total) bills
(co)sponsored by
Representative Pallone
related to immigration

1 of 17 issues
is immigration on
Representative Pallone's
website

33 Tweets (16.33% of total)
about immigration-related
topics from Jan 1 to March 1
2019

Notable Policy Positions on Immigration	
Year	Policy
2019	Voted NO on building a fence along Mexican border
2010	Voted YES on DREAM Act; strong supporter and made several public statements
2004	Voted NO on reporting illegal aliens who receive hospital treatment
1996	Voted YEA on Immigration Reform Bill that increased border security funding and personnel



Source: See supplement

Actual Immigration Policy Outlook

As Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Representative Pallone is a ranking member of the Democratic caucus in the House of Representatives. However, he is not as active on the front of immigration as expected. Only 4.65% of bills sponsored or cosponsored by him since 1988 have related to immigration. Moreover, immigration is only 1 of 17 issues listed on his website and does not match his priority on civil rights and energy. Recently, however, he has supported a pro-immigration position publicly on Twitter and through speaking appearances to counter the Republican anti-immigration sentiment. In addition to voting against all Trump Administration immigration policies, he has also been active in the past by being a vocal advocate for the DREAM Act. Interestingly, in 1996, he voted in support for an immigration reform bill that strengthened border security and penalized illegal immigrants. Although not as ardent a supporter as we predicted, Representative Pallone falls squarely in the Democratic camp in terms of supporting pro-immigration policy.

Sources:

<https://pallone.house.gov/issues>

https://twitter.com/FrankPallone?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor

<https://votesmart.org/candidate/key-votes/26951/frank-pallone-jr/40/immigration#.XIHdd5NKhp>